According to what we know of the production of the cultivated lands of the Ahaggar itself and according to what the Tuareg are obliged to import, we may know approximately their needs. During the good years, local production is equivalent to only one quarter of the needs. It may be evaluated at 150 tons. To this must be added wheat production, but this cannot be taken in consideration insofar as consumption is concerned, since it is almost entirely destined for export. It follows from this that import needs amount to 4, 000 loads of millet a year, calculated at 150 kilograms each, making 600 tons, which are for the most part bought or exchanged at Damergou or in the Tahoua region. The annual demand for dates is 400 loads.

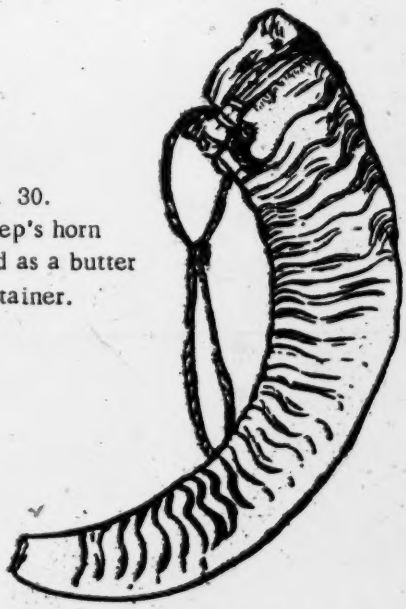

Fig. 30. Sheep's horn used as a butter container.

From these figures it follows that the annual needs per person are approximately one load of millet and one-tenth of a load of dates.

Individual consumption may thus be estimated at 187 kilograms of millet and 15 kilograms of dates per year, while an identical calculation /232/ for the Saharian Arabs has given us 180 kilograms of wheat and 75 kilograms of dates. But we must not deceive ourselves. These figures are drawn up for years, if not of abundance, at least of relative facility. Indeed, the annual average is very much lower, for the Ihaggaren do not always have at their disposal the means of exchange to meet their needs, and one may reduce the figures cited above by a good third, sometimes even by half.